

Fall/Winter 2021

Tailwaggers

Published Three Times a Year by the Animal Rescue League of Iowa



**14 MINI HORSES GET
A SECOND CHANCE**

**TEN YEARS OF
SHELTER CAT GETAWAY**

**WALKING TRAIL DEDICATED
TO SUPER VOLUNTEER**

CELEBRATE AT THE ARL



Birthdays are for celebrating! The ARL has birthday celebration options for you AND your dog. The best part? Your party will support the homeless pets at the ARL. Learn more: [ARL-iowa.org/Birthdays](https://www.arl-iowa.org/Birthdays).

SOCIAL MEDIA SNAPSHOTS



Follow @ARLIowa to stay up to date on everything ARL!



FIRST FAMILY PHOTOS

Joker's new mom met him when he was living with his foster family. As soon as she learned he was available for adoption, she rushed to the ARL to take him home.



KIDS WHO CARE

For her 3rd birthday, Lucy asked for gifts for the animals instead of presents for herself. She was so excited when she came to the shelter with a red wagon full of donations.



EVENT ALERTS

Keep your calendar up to date with ARL events, from big events like our Iowa Dog Jog to smaller events like Cats N Mats Yoga to pop-up events like puppy Cuddle Breaks for businesses.



Since 1926 the Animal Rescue League of Iowa (ARL) has been a safe haven for animals who have had nowhere else to turn.

Over the course of nearly a century, more than 1 million abused, abandoned, neglected, unwanted, and even very loved animals have found refuge within our doors.

ARL Main

5452 NE 22nd Street
Des Moines, IA 50313

ARL West

Inside Iowa Pet Foods & Seascapes
1500 22nd Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265

ARL North

Inside Ankeny PetSmart
1715 Delaware Avenue
Ankeny, IA 50021

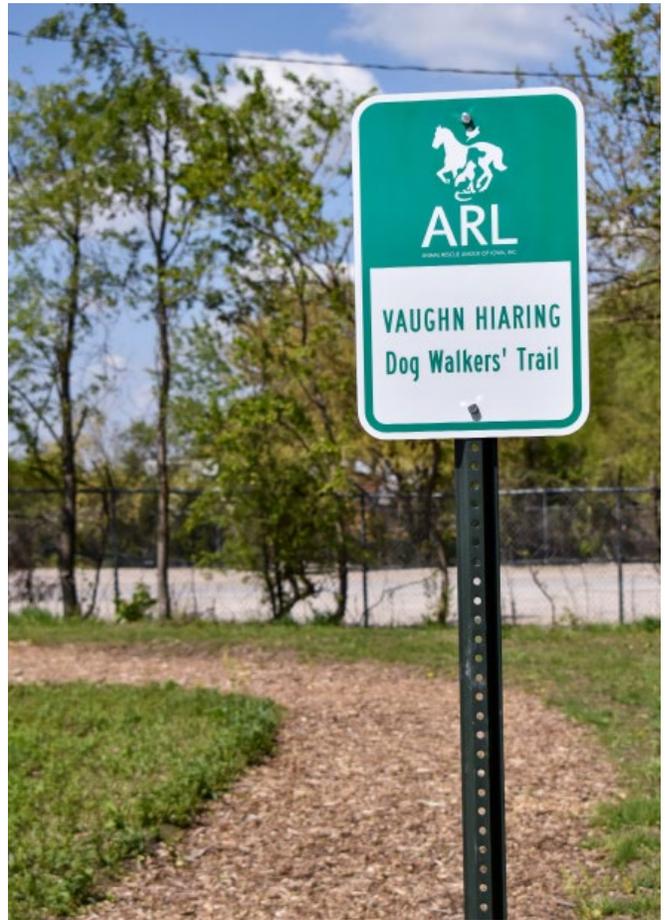
ARL Animal Services

1615 SE 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50315

Questions or Comments?

(515) 262-9503
tailwaggers@arl-iowa.org

or visit us online
ARL-IOWA.ORG



CHANGING LIVES **ONE STEP AT A TIME**

Last year, we created a half-mile trail that circles our main campus and is used year-round by volunteers and staff for walking the dogs in our care.

In May, we dedicated that trail to a person who has changed the lives of countless dogs at the ARL: our super volunteer Vaughn Hiaring. Vaughn is here most days walking nearly all of the dogs in our adoption area, as well as many who aren't available yet but who need the exercise and one-on-one time. It doesn't matter if the weather is hot or cold. It doesn't matter a dog's size, age, or how hard they pull. If a dog needs a walk, he takes them.

Since Vaughn started volunteering at the ARL in 2016, he has logged thousands of volunteer hours walking the dogs in our care. The dogs clearly love him, and it's heartwarming to see

their excitement and joy when he arrives at their kennel with harness and leash in hand. He also recently became a trainer for new dog-walking volunteers, so the "Vaughn Hiaring Dog Walkers' Trail" is now busier than ever.

We're grateful for Vaughn's time, dedication, and compassion toward animals in need, and we're proud his name is now a permanent part of the ARL!

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

When you volunteer at the ARL, you make a difference for homeless animals AND the people choosing to adopt them. Learn more:

ARL-IOWA.ORG/VOLUNTEER

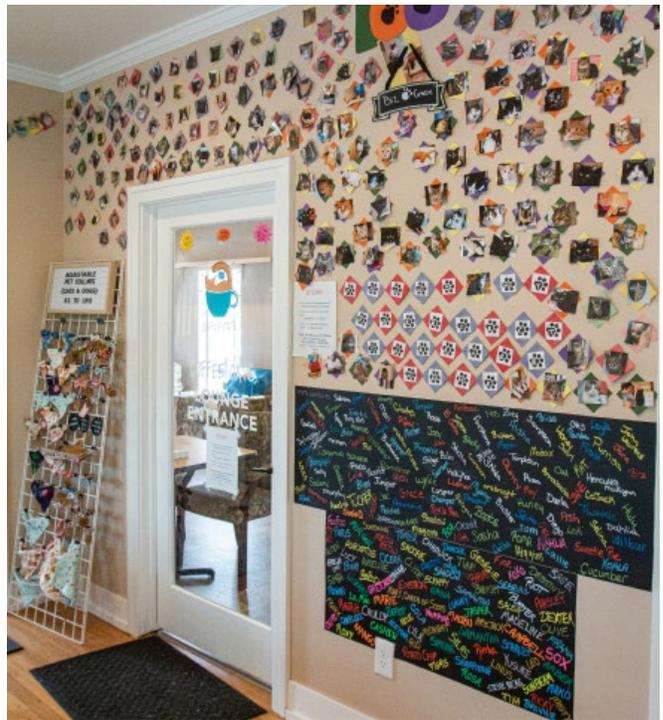
ONE YEAR OF COFFEE, CATS, AND CHANGING MORE LIVES

COFFEE CATS CAFÉ

After only a year, the ARL's adoption partnership with Coffee Cats Café has changed lives by the hundreds. Iowa's first cat cafe celebrated one year in business and one year of ARL cat adoptions this summer with a week of Name Your Price adoptions, drink specials, adoptable kittens and more. Nearly 500 ARL cats have found homes through Coffee Cats so far, and most are at the cafe only days before a family falls in love.

Part coffee shop and part cat lounge, Coffee Cats opened in July 2020 in West Des Moines' Valley Junction. Visitors can make a reservation to spend time with the cats in the cat lounge or simply enjoy a beverage and watch the cats from the comfort of the coffee shop. For those looking to adopt, it's a relaxed way to meet multiple cats and find a great fit for their family.

Coffee Cats' impact is most evident just outside the cat lounge, where there's a wall covered with the names and colorful, furry faces of the cats who have found homes. We're looking forward to many more years of coffee, cats and changing lives!



PLAN YOUR VISIT

Drink some coffee, grab a pastry, and visit with the ARL cats at Coffee Cats Cafe. Maybe you'll fall in love and take a new family member home.

For hours, location, and to make a reservation:
ARL-IOWA.ORG/COFFEECATS



KODIAK (RIGHT), ADOPTED AUGUST 2018



TIPPY, ADOPTED IN 2016



RIZZO, ADOPTED OCTOBER 2017



EVIE, ADOPTED APRIL 2020

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We love seeing pets leave the ARL and settle into their new homes — but we also enjoy when their families let us know what they've been up to! Here are a few ARL alumni we've received updates about!

Submit your story and photo at ARL-IOWA.ORG/WATN



RUBY, ADOPTED NOVEMBER 2014



CHARLIE, ADOPTED APRIL 2020



KAI, ADOPTED JANUARY 2021



TY (RIGHT), ADOPTED MAY 2020



LOLA, ADOPTED JANUARY 2020



PHOEBE, ADOPTED APRIL 2019



ZEUS AND ZORRO, ADOPTED JANUARY 2016

A LARGE-SCALE RESCUE: 14 MINIATURE HORSES GET A SECOND CHANCE

In July, the ARL assisted in rescuing 14 miniature horses in terrible condition from an eastern Iowa property.

Many of the horses arrived at our Second Chance Ranch with severely overgrown hooves — some so long they had started to corkscrew — making it extremely painful and difficult for them to walk. Several of the horses were underweight, and one mare was completely blind, relying on another horse, who moved more slowly because of a crooked leg, to help her navigate her surroundings.

On top of their physical challenges, many of the horses were not used to people or their touch, making helping them even more difficult.

These horses urgently needed specialized care, so we started making calls. Within 24 hours equine veterinarians and farriers were at the ARL, evaluating the horses' medical needs and doing initial emergency hoof trims.

Several of these poor mini horses had been struggling to walk with pounds of overgrown hooves. One little golden stallion named Bo had 5.5 pounds of corkscrewed hoof trimmed off. Even after just one foot was trimmed, we saw a change in his demeanor. He started to move more and had more energy and personality as each hoof was freed of the excess weight. He, along with the others who had suffered so long with severe hoof issues, then began the process of relearning how to walk.

The horses spent weeks recovering at the ARL, with equine vets and farriers on site regularly to provide veterinary and hoof care. Our team worked with the horses daily helping them feel more comfortable around people, and we were excited to see them grow in confidence. Once the horses were ready for adoption, we received a flood of interest, and as of press time most have already found homes.



Luke undergoing emergency hoof trimming



Spot being examined by an equine veterinarian



Bo and his new family



Martha, now Madre, enjoying her new home



Maya and Mary

Here are just a couple of success stories.

Martha, a senior mare who arrived very thin and with some of the worst corkscrewed hooves, was adopted by two hoof care professionals who came to help the horses after their rescue. Now named Madre, she is enjoying her retirement on an acreage and loves stretching her legs in the pasture with her other barn animal friends.

Maya, the blind horse, and Mary, her seeing eye companion with the crooked leg, found a home together! Both are living on an acreage and have their own space so Maya can be confident in her surroundings and always feel comfortable. Their family is looking forward to building a bond with them as pets and therapy horses.

Thanks to your support, these horses are getting the second chance they have always deserved: the chance to live healthy, happy lives with families who love them.

FOSTER A BARN ANIMAL

Fostering a barn animal is not only a rewarding experience for you, but it also gives roosters, pigs, horses and others a change of environment where they can continue to thrive until they find their forever home.

Learn more:

ARL-IOWA.ORG/SECONDCHANCERANCH

MARKING A MILESTONE SHELTER CAT GETAWAY



Ten years ago, a little stray cat named Maude sparked a foster program at the ARL that would grow to change the lives of 100-150 cats every year.

While the shelter had had a thriving foster program for kittens for decades, the Shelter Cat Getaway program was created to help cats just like Maude – longer-resident adult cats who just needed a break from shelter life while they waited for new families.

Launched in the middle of a busy summer season, the program was a win-win-win. It not only gave adoptable cats a chance to get out of the shelter and enjoy the home life they deserved, it gave us a chance to learn more about the cats from their foster families so we could better match them with potential adopters. It also opened up much-needed kennel space at a time when kitten season was in full swing and dozens of cats and kittens were coming through our doors every day.

Today, the Shelter Cat Getaway program is still going strong, helping not just longer residents that need a vacation, but cats that may be struggling with special medical or behavioral needs.

The program has changed the lives of hundreds of cats already, and we look forward to helping hundreds more cats for years to come.



GIVE A CAT A VACATION FROM THE SHELTER

Find out how to become a Shelter Cat Getaway foster family at:

ARL-IOWA.ORG/SCG

TWO STORIES OF HEALING

RUDY AND HIGHWAY BOBBY



Poor Rudy arrived with a lot of challenges. He was very thin and suffering from a skin infection and an old injury that caused his front legs to curve backward. From the start, we were determined to help him. Over the course of several weeks, our medical team helped him regain weight and healed his skin. After determining surgery was not a humane option for his legs, our veterinarians made a plan to manage his condition so he could have good quality of life. Once

he was ready for a home, he was adopted by a wonderful family. His name is now “El Rudy,” and he loves to play and go for walks like any other dog. He jumps about 3 feet into the air when he sees a leash because he’s so excited to go out! He also loves squeaky toys and will happily squeak them continuously. He will always have exercise limits, but his family has a dog stroller to make sure he can always come with them no matter what.



Highway Bobby was just a tiny kitten when he was found by the side of a highway with severe trauma to his back end. His tail was dead and his other injuries were so severe we weren’t sure they could be repaired. Despite his condition he purred loudly and actively asked for cuddles. We could see he was a fighter. Our veterinarian took him into surgery, amputated his tail and reconstructed the injured area. His recovery was slow, and he spent weeks in our Miracle Medical Ward under the close watch of our surgical team. Slowly but surely his little body healed. By the time he was ready for adoption, an ARL staff member had fallen in love with his big personality. His name is now Nugget and he loves running at top speed through the house, climbing as

high as he can, and bringing his toys to his new mom when he needs some playtime. He has three other cats to keep him company and he is loving his new life.

BE THERE FOR PETS IN NEED

You can help us continue to be there for pets who arrive in need of critical care. Learn more about our Miracle Medical Fund at:

[ARL-IOWA.ORG/MIRACLE](https://www.aryl-iowa.org/miracle)



LULUBELLE'S POWER PLUSH ICE CREAMZ

Who doesn't want a non-messy version of ice cream for their dog? Each whimsical Lulubelle's toy is backed with an extra layer of durable mesh fused on the inside to make these high-quality, soft plush toys hold up to the scrappiest canines!

\$10.99



EVERY DAY IS CATURDAY TOTE BAG

When every day is Caturday in your house, everyone needs to know! Tote this bag around with all of your dance costumes, groceries, or cat supplies, and let the bag do the talking!

\$23.99



YEOWWW RAINBOW

This rainbow toy will lead your cat to the pot of gold (catnip). The vegetable-dyed cotton fabric is durable for all of your kitties' nips and scratches to the toy, so you don't have to worry about that catnip getting all over.

\$7.99

FUN FOR YOU AND YOUR PET FEATURED MERCH

Shop online at
ARL-IOWA.ORG/SHOP



PET CANDY BED BUDDY

If your cat likes to snuggle OR wrestle with toys, this is a great toy for them. The Pet Candy Bed Buddy measures 8 inches long, and is made out of soft fleece in all sorts of patterns. There is a small amount of catnip inside to keep your kitty interested.

\$7.99

All proceeds from the ARL's Animal House store benefit the homeless pets at the ARL



TOYBOX PIG AND HEDGEHOG TOYS

These adorable critters are plump enough for you to toss around to your dog, and soft enough for snuggling. The best part is even if they are ripped open, there is a second toy inside — a squeaky ball!

\$13.99



AIN'T NO LAWS T-SHIRT

Based off the beverage, this shirt asks the question: Are there really any laws when you have claws? This soft cotton tee comes in sizes S-2XL as well as two color options: white and tie-dye.

\$20.00



DECEMBER 1-31
MAKE A DONATION FOR HOMELESS PETS AT THE ARL

Visit any participating location in the metro to drop off donations for homeless pets.

For a current list of locations, visit **ARL-iowa.org/TreeOfLife**

WISH LIST

- Cat Litter
- Cat Carriers
- Cat Treats
- Canned Tuna
- Peanut Butter
- Easy Cheese
- Kongs
- Small, Soft Dog Treats
- Small Animal Food for All Species
- Timothy Hay
- Horse Feed
- Horse Bedding
- Chicken Feed

LISTEN TO THE EXPERTS ON
ARL ANIMAL CONNECTION
LIVE! SATURDAYS 6-7 A.M. WHO 1040
 HOSTED BY ARL'S ANIMAL EXPERTS
 ANIMAL FUN FACTS & TRIVIA
 TIPS FOR YOUR PETS
 HAPPENINGS AT THE ARL
 GIVEAWAYS

DOWNLOAD THE PODCAST

GET IT ON **Google Play** Listen on **Apple Podcasts** AVAILABLE ON **STITCHER**

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ARLANIMALCONNECTION

35TH ANNUAL
Santa N' Paws
 PHOTO FUNDRAISER

All proceeds from this event directly help the homeless pets at the ARL.

Bring the whole family, humans and pets alike, for this year's holiday photo!

LOCATIONS & DATES
ARL Main
 Nov. 4-7, Nov. 11-14
Homemakers
 Nov. 18
University Photo
 Nov. 19 & 21
West End Salvage
 Nov. 20

Digital and traditional photo packages are available!

Reserve your spot:
ARL-iowa.org/SantaNPaws

UNIQUE & SIMPLE WAYS TO GIVE



FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER

This year, instead of birthday gifts, ask your family and friends to donate to a cause close to your heart by creating a personal fundraiser on your Facebook page.

Learn how at
[ARL-IOWA.ORG/FACEBOOK](https://www.aryl-iowa.org/facebook)



LOYAL FRIENDS CLUB

Make a lasting impact on the animals by becoming a part of the ARL's Loyal Friends Club! You can join the club by simply making a recurring monthly donation of your choice.

Learn more at
[ARL-IOWA.ORG/LOYALFRIENDS](https://www.aryl-iowa.org/loyalfriends)



BECOME A SPONSOR

Whether you are part of a business, social group or organization, you can help the animals by sponsoring an event, donating shelter supplies or services, and more!

Learn more at
[ARL-IOWA.ORG/SPONSOR](https://www.aryl-iowa.org/sponsor)

JOIN OUR TEAM

The Animal Rescue League of Iowa offers a variety of career paths whether you're looking to work hands-on with animals, serve in a support role, or oversee one of our growing list of programs and services. Every member of our team plays an important role in changing the lives of animals and the people who love them.

See opportunities at
[ARL-IOWA.ORG/CAREERS](https://www.aryl-iowa.org/careers)



A GIFT IS MORE THAN JUST A NUMBER

Contributions from generous donors like you have made it possible to help over 10,000 pets in 2020, and continue to make an impact now and for the future.

Learn more about ways to donate to the ARL at
[ARL-IOWA.ORG/WAYSTOGIVE](https://www.aryl-iowa.org/waystogive)

